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30 June 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: New Vietnam Committee

1. The new Vietnam committee had its first meeting in Mr. Habib's office at 1100 on Friday, 30 June. Its principals include: Mr. Philip Habib, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Chairman; Mr. Paul Warnke, Assistant Secretary of Defense (designate); Vice Admiral Johnson, J-5 of the Joint Staff; Mr. William Jordan of the White House staff; Mr. Carver of CIA. Mr. Warnke brought with him the ISA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Far East matters, Mr. Richard Steadman. Mr. Robert Miller, Director of the Department of State's Vietnam Working Group also attended this morning's session, as did Assistant Secretary Bundy from time to time.

2. We reviewed recent events in Vietnam, wrote a press statement to be issued by the Department of State Press Officer at the noon briefing on 30 June, and drafted a report for relay to the President at the Ranch. Copies of these documents will be forwarded to you when I receive them by LDX in their final form.

3. The committee will meet daily at 1100 with the principals in attendance, except in rare instances where they cannot make it for genuinely good reasons. Until directed otherwise, the committee will send a memorandum to the President each day which will include a rapid, factual rundown of salient overnight developments, comment on their meaning, and recommendations for Washington action or -- in cases where the action does not require Presidential authorization -- a report of action taken.

4. I think this will be a good group. If we can keep it informal, it could provide an effective vehicle for coordinating the total US Government effort on Vietnam.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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